



CELEBRATING HOOSIER DIVERSITY

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

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GOVERNOR DANIELS HOSTS FIRST IFTAR EVENT AT RESIDENCE

For the first time in Indiana history, Muslims from across the state broke their fast at the Governor's residence on September 25, 2006.

The evening began at sundown when Henry Hane, an immigrant from Senegal, recited the Muslim call to prayer.

Guests broke their fast with dishes from three different continents and then participated in prayers under tents in the backyard at the Governor's residence.

This was the second Iftar event hosted by Governor Daniels. Last year's event was held at the Statehouse in Indianapolis while the residence received a long overdue face-lift.

"All God's people are equal in his eyes," said Daniels. "I am glad to welcome you to this home. You should think of this as your home."

Ramadan is celebrated during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is considered the holiest month. Tradition says that it was in that month when the Quran was revealed to the prophet Muhammed through the archangel Gabriel. Muhammed recited the verses to scholars who recorded them during the next 23 years.



Governor Mitch Daniels hosts the second annual Iftar event at his official residence on September 25, 2006.

Prayers, fasting, self-accountability, and charity are typically associated with Ramadan. Muslims are expected to refrain from violence, anger, greed, gambling, and gossip, among other things. They are also expected to fast from sun-up to sun-down.

Frequently, Muslims gather for communal meals to break the daily fast. Children, travelers, and those whose health prohibits it are exempt from the fast.

"[The Governor's] general message from the heart was very well received," said Ahmed ElHattab, acting director

of the Plainfield-based Islamic Society of North America.

"We have different pathways. We read different books," said Daniels. "But there is so much in common among those people who recognize a higher power and a greater purpose, and who recognize their own shortcomings and are trying to overcome them as best as mere mortals can."

Attendants of the Governor's Iftar celebration agreed that this event sent an important message and gave Muslims across the state a sense of belonging and respect.



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